



Commanding Officer's Safety and Force Preservation Policy



"The door to safety swings on the hinges of common sense"

Anonymous

Safety is a central tenant of combat readiness and must be seamlessly woven into the fabric of our operating culture. Safety results from professionally executed operations with clearly understood missions, personnel who are properly trained for the assigned tasks, and individuals who know their limitations and are disciplined to not exceed them. To damage or lose an aircraft, Marine, Sailor, or Civilian degrades our combat readiness by shifting valuable resources away from our preparation for the fight. Taking the extra five minutes to check the publication or applicable directive enhances our combat readiness in the long run by avoiding the additional time required to rectify a mistake and preserves our fighting force. John Wooden said it best; "if you don't have time to do it right the first time when will you have time to do it again?" As professionals it is incumbent upon us to always do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons.



I believe in safety through standardization. We will conduct every evolution in a standardized manner (i.e. by the book) and guard ourselves against reckless behavior both at the individual level and amongst our squadron. If each individual is conducting evolutions exactly the same every time, and that execution is conducted using the established rules and regulations, then we will be successful. This mindset is applicable to our professional and personal endeavors – both on and off duty. The Marine Corps excels at mitigating risk in combat in order to inflict maximum damage to our enemy while preserving our own forces to fight another day. These same basic principles in combat can be adapted for garrison use to defeat a different enemy. I expect all members of the Pegasus to know and comply with established rules and regulations both on duty and off duty.

Before every evolution ask yourself this simple question: what is different this time? Throughout the course of history subtle changes in execution have resulted in mishaps due to a failure to recognize the slow increase in risk level until it is too late to shift course. Discipline in maintaining your pre-briefed game plan and recognizing when to call stop is critical to maintaining inherently safe practices. It is this discipline in execution that will preserve our most precious asset – the individual Marine, Sailor, and Civilian so we can be the most ready when our nation calls.

Safety is a leadership issue that transcends rank and billet. Anyone who encounters or observes unsafe acts or practices is expected to take appropriate action. As soon as you see a mistake and don't fix it, it's your mistake.

Semper Fidelis,

Jeffrey L. Davis
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding